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The store that equips James Bond

By Linda Perney
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BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — You're in the market for protection, looking for privacy, worried about security. You say you're beyond the bullet-proof-vest stage; you want something a little more sophisticated.

You might find what you're looking for at CCS Communication Control Inc. in Beverly Hills.

The company, described as the "store where James Bond shops," carries bulletproof vests, but that's just the beginning. The really interesting stuff here is the stuff of which Bondian dreams are made.

How about something nice in the way of a phone "handkerchief" that will turn a man's voice into a woman's or turn a woman's into something that is hard to describe? Or what about the Nuke Spooker, a radiation detector that will light up and buzz a warning if you happen to be blitzed with a sudden dose of rads? For a mere \$3,500 you can get the phone attachment; the Nuke Spooker goes for a paltry \$1,900.

For the paranoid on the move, the company offers a version of the supercar originally designed for the shah of Iran, who didn't have time to take delivery of it before losing his kingdom. It's bulletproof and bombproof, its tires are specially constructed to keep you on the road even after they've been shot out, it has gun ports for retaliation and a remote-control ignition, so you can start it without going near it, thus foiling a terrorist's most deadly plan. It has a set of tear-gas ducts mounted at the back, and a mechanism that will loose an oil slick to, uh, discourage your pursuers.

The company representatives don't say how many or what variations of the cars they have sold, but they do say they can turn virtually any kind of car — from a jeep to a limo — into a moving fortress for a price that ranges upward from \$50,000, depending on the extras you choose. It should be noted, however, that the tear-gas and oil-slick features are illegal for use in the United States.

There is the obvious question, of course: Who buys such a car? The company keeps mum, for obvious reasons, but staff members do volunteer the fact that they've sold their various and sundry equipment to many foreign governments — to ambassadors, kings, presidents and dictators, as well as to mayors and police departments.

But a good deal of CCS's business is with American business, and most of it is considerably more mundane than the aforementioned auto. In an age of corporate espionage, the company provides executives of firms like TRW, Xerox and DuPont with the wherewithal to root out tape recorders attached to their telephones and bugs hidden in their boardrooms.

Industrial espionage, particularly in such vulnerable areas as high-tech manufacturing, is no laughing matter. Indeed, it has become such a serious problem that in September President Reagan ordered the creation of a cabinet-level federal agency to combat electronic piracy in business and government.

But CCS, founded by Ben Jamil in 1969, doesn't deal exclusively with corporate heavies; indeed, as far as spying is concerned, nothing seems to be sacred anymore. Tom Salway,

the company's West Coast manager, points out that his client roster has a number of lawyers concerned with protecting the confidentiality of their clients, and the company has even done bugging sweeps of the chambers of judges.

All this protection doesn't come cheap, though. Salway says he can come up with security systems for budgets of \$10,000 to \$100,000. But "you really have to have a need for this kind of product," he says, since the lowest budget the company usually deals with runs between \$600 and \$700.

Apparently there is no dearth of people with such a need, since the company's sales last year topped out at \$20 million, up from \$7 million in 1980. The Manhattan-based company now has offices, in addition to its

Beverly Hills location, in Washington, Miami, Chicago and Houston, not to mention the foreign branches in Toronto, London, Paris and Hong Kong.

A quick glance through the company's 64-page catalogue (which is printed in English, French, Spanish and Arabic) reads like a veritable guide to the esoterica of security.

For only \$210 you can own a Security Blanket, a contraption like a flashlight that emits a high-intensity light beam that momentarily blinds an attacker. Or a Kidnap Recovery System (it starts at around \$7,000 and can go as high as \$12,000, depending on the extras) that allows a victim to be followed by means of a miniature transmitter secreted in something as innocuous as a fountain pen or hearing aid.

You can order something called a

Voice Stress Analyzer (\$3,500 for the small size, \$7,500 for the larger set), which is essentially a lie detector that works by analyzing the voice rather than pulse and which can thus be used over the phone. Or there's a Tape Recorder Nullifier (\$7,200), which, the company promises, will put concealed tape recorders out of commission and even nullify the transmission of room bugs. As the catalogue discreetly points out, the system is available disguised as a tabletop radio.

Despite Salway's claim that the company is interested first and foremost in defending its clients against other people's intrusions, there is a little something called a Covert Camera Spy System (\$1,280), which the catalogue touts as the "first micro-miniature professional spy system for undetected photography."

In the conference room at CCS there is a display of all this paraphernalia. Along the shelves that line the walls are a paper shredder, attache cases outfitted with bug detectors and hidden tape recorders and a belt buckle equipped with its own tiny bug.

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